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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MCAP](#) [AF](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: FRANCE SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

REF: STATE 93225

11. (U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified - not for internet distribution.

12. (SBU) On September 2 we conveyed reftel demarche in support of the expansion of the Afghan National Army from 86,000 to 134,000 at the September 10 Joint Coordination Board Meeting in Kabul to Nicolas Niemtchinow, DAS-equivalent in the bureau of Strategic Affairs at the MFA. Niemtchinow responded that the GOF takes the subject of supporting the Afghan National Army (ANA) very seriously and that the training and increased capabilities of ANA is both a priority and a key element of our common engagement in Afghanistan. The GOF is considering what else they can do to support the ANA, aside from their current investment in training via OMLTs. Niemtchinow promised to keep us informed as events progress and assured us in the meantime of France's support. Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:
<http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/Portal:France>

STAPLETON